United Nations ST/IC/2009/29

# Secretariat

10 August 2009

## Information circular*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **No smoking policy at United Nations Headquarters premises**

1. The purpose of the present information circular is to communicate to all staff the measures taken by the Organization with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/8 entitled "Smoke-free United Nations premises".

2. The present circular applies to all established United Nations Headquarters premises. It does not apply to separately administered funds and programmes, which are responsible for establishing their own policies on the subject, or to peacekeeping operations or technical assistance projects, for which separate policies are in effect.

3. With the adoption of resolution 63/8 on 3 November 2008, the General Assembly decided to implement a complete ban on smoking at United Nations Headquarters indoor premises and on sales of tobacco products at United Nations Headquarters premises. The Assembly also recommended the implementation of a complete ban on smoking at all United Nations indoor premises, including regional and country offices throughout the United Nations system, and the implementation of a complete ban on sales of tobacco products at all United Nations premises.

4. In order to ensure compliance with the above-mentioned resolution, staff are informed that, effective immediately, smoking at United Nations Headquarters indoor premises and annexes in New York is fully banned and that tobacco products will no longer be sold at United Nations Headquarters premises in New York.

5. Smokers are reminded that ashtrays have been placed at all entrances to the Secretariat Building so that they can extinguish their cigarettes before entering the premises. Exterior smoking areas are located at the South Courtyard and the North Rose Garden, level 1B, of the Conference Building. In taking these measures, due consideration has been given to the health and rights of non-smokers, bearing in mind that studies have linked second-hand smoking to cancer as well as to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

6. Smokers who wish to participate in a six-week monitored smoking cessation programme are reminded that they may contact the Medical Services Division (extension 3-7080).

* The present circular will be in effect until further notice.

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7. The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services at Headquarters, the Director-Generals of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna, and the executive secretaries of the regional commissions for Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Western Asia are responsible for the implementation of the ban on smoking at their respective duty stations.